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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration FormRECEIVED
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REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Diamond Fruit Farm (Boundary Increase)
other names/site number Dravo House, Site #JF-215

2. Location

street & number 8101 Six Mile Lane ☐ not for publication
city, town Louisville Jeffersontown ☒ vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Jefferson code KY 111 zip code 40220

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>7</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Louisville & Jefferson County M.P.L.

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

David L. Morgan

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Subsistence:

Agricultural Field--Orchard, pasture

Domestic: Single Dwelling--Residence,
outbuildings

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling-residence

Agriculture/Subsistence: Agricultural Field--
pasture**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic: Federal--Adams

Mid-19th Century: Italian Villa

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Limestone

walls Brick

Wood--Board and Batten

roof Metal: Tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheet 7.1

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1837-1920

1860

Agriculture

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See Continuation Sheet 8.1

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet 9.1

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☒ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Jefferson Co. Office of Historic Preservation
and Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property ca. 33 acres

UTM References

A

1	6
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6	2	2	3	6	0
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4	2	2	9	0	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

1	6
---	---

6	2	2	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	2	2	8	6	2	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

E 16 6 2 2 1 5 0 4 2 2 9 1 8 0

Jeffersontown Quadrangle

B

1	6
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6	2	2	3	8	0
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4	2	2	8	6	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

D

1	6
---	---

6	2	2	0	0	0
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4	2	2	8	9	3	0
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☒ See continuation sheet 10.1

Verbal Boundary Description

This property includes only the 33 acres that lie immediately west of the Hurstbourne Lane extension, north of Six Mile Lane, south of Beargrass Creek, and east of a subdivision (see site map)—including all of the remaining property within District 22, Block 44, Lot 10 in the unincorporated area of Jefferson County.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheet 10.2

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel G. Carey, Historic Preservation Analyst

organization Jefferson Co. Office of Hist. Preservation & Archives date Nov. 10, 1989

street & number Suite 204, Louisville Gardens telephone 502/625-5761

city or town Louisville state Kentucky zip code 40202

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Diamond Fruit Farm, JF215
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Property History

- 1811: Claim of Nicholas Merriwether and James Sullivan to
Nicolas Buckner. 132.75 Acres
- 1812: Nicolas Buckner to Levi Carrico. 132.75 Acres
- 1814: Levi Carrico to Valentine Conrad. 132.75 Acres
- 1850: Valentine Conrad will to William H. Conrad. 132.75 Acres
- 1858: William H. Conrad to Frank Dravo, via George Seabolt.
119.75 Acres
- 1874: William F. Bryan to Frank Dravo. 3.25 Acres*
- 1878: William H. Conrad will to Margaret Dravo. 119.75 Acres
- 1894: Deed of partition to A. B. Dravo. 55 Acres*
- 1896: Frank Dravo heirs to Nellie Dravo. 3.25 Acres*
- 1936: Nellie Dravo divides between sons Emory Lou and James
Stuart.
- 1938: Emory Lou Dravo to Liberty Bank, trustee for Stuart
Dravo. 63.276 Acres*
- 1976: Marguerite Haile Dravo to Paul Fenwick. 63.276 Acres*

* Notice that these three properties were combined to form
the present day acreage of the entire farm, 63.276 Acres.
However, it is this acreage that was cut by the Hurstbourne
Lane extension, leaving 33 acres of intact, original property.

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Diamond Fruit Farm, JF215
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Description

Domestic Complex

buildings: 1. Main house, contributing
4. Slaves' quarters, contributing
2. Stock barn, contributing
3. Guest house, non-contributing

sites: 7. Pasture, contributing

structures: 5. Tool shed, contributing
6. Springhouse, contributing
8. Stone fence, contributing

The Diamond Fruit Farm, exemplary in its representation of a well-to-do nineteenth century farming enterprise, is a rare surviving remnant of east central Jefferson County's rich agricultural history. Set among a prize collection of small but prosperous farms, the Diamond Fruit Farm (hereinafter referred to as Dravo) stands watchful over a rapidly developing area. Teeming with newly built suburbs, strip malls, and an extension of a major 4-lane thoroughfare, the future of the famous Six Mile Lane farm is in question (photos 1,2,3).

The property contains eight features, seven of which contribute and one which does not. Of the seven that do contribute, they are divided between possessing agricultural and architectural significance, as per National Register criteria. The nominated area contains 33 acres--the boundaries of which are discussed later in this text. An examination of Dravo will include the aforementioned features, the impact of the owners on the property, and the genesis of Dravo as a highly successful cash crop farm during the mid to late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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Diamond Fruit Farm, JF215
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As such, the extant buildings and natural landscape of Dravo provide a microcosmic view of the once common and prosperous gentleman farm property type. An examination of Dravo will include, but not be limited to seven contributing buildings, sites, and structures, one non-contributing building, the natural landscape, the impact of the owners on the property, and the genesis of Dravo as a first rate farm during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Positioned in one of the most fertile regions of the county, Dravo benefits from a collection of fine soils and well-drained lands. Dravo lies south of the watershed of Beargrass Creek (South Fork) and just north of the Southern Railway tracks on the western edge of the 4th class City of Jeffersontown (photos 4,5). Historically speaking, these favorable geologic conditions accounted for this section of the county's prominent farming families: Alderson (JF217), Allen (JF220), Bryan (JF213, 214, 216), Conrad (JF217), Dravo (JF215), Field (JF226) Funk (JF223, 224, 225), Hite (JF212), Kennedy (JF221, 222), and Seabolt (JF128) to name a few. Present times find each of these properties uniquely threatened by the suburban sprawl progressing from all angles. Once valued farm land is now seen as prize commercial and residential development land.

Comprised largely of Crider-Corydon Associated soil types, as per the gentleman farm property type requirements, the surrounding acreage has level to sloping soils on broad ridges and shallow soils over limestone on hillsides. An average of 630 feet above sea level, the land is considered prime for its ease of drainage and tillage. In general, the Crider series is a fairly deep, well-drained soil on wide, level ridges. And as is true in the case of Dravo, nearly all of the level to sloping areas have been cleared and have been either cultivated or turned to pasture. A small, but dense collection of mature second generation woods in the northeast portion of the property provides a nice contrast of early frontier lands versus cleared lands (photo 6).

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This soil responds well to lime and fertilizer, and consequently is one of the most productive soils in the county. It is considered excellent for orchard, truck and nursery crops, and when well supervised--is not limited by erosion and thus continuous cultivation is possible. This explains the long term success of the fruit farm and also serves as a reminder of the responsible land use and planning of the Conrad, Dravo and Fenwick families. Such responsibly managed farms were exemplary of gentleman farms of the era--melding conservative and innovative plans to maximize yield and prolong the farm's longevity.

These soils cover much of the principal growing belts of the northeast and east central portions of Jefferson County. Among the most productive soils in the county, they are reddish-brown in color and are well-suited to all of the general crops: corn, alfalfa, and tobacco, as well as vegetable, fruit, nursery, and other specialized crops.

A 180+ day growing season in this temperate environment boosts the land's yield to its maximum. A 40+ inch annual rainfall average and mild temperatures complement the conducive growing area. As an example, one of the Dravo's diary notes that as late as 1907 a stellar crop of onions from a little more than one acre bore a hefty \$1,000 at the market. The accompanying, more traditional cash crops (fruits and vegetables) from Dravo also brought top dollar in Louisville and other markets along the Ohio River and available rail lines. There were also many other crops that caused high praise to be heaped on Dravo: peaches, plums, tomatoes, grapes, raspberries, strawberries, cherries, pears, cucumbers, and apples were annual fruit harvests of the Diamond Fruit Farm.

The ability to produce these crops implied the existence of wealth for the Dravo family for orchards took several years to mature before fruit was borne. As such, the wealth accumulated by Dravo gave him time to concentrate on more innovative farming techniques as opposed to devoting an inordinate amount of time to subsistence farming.

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Considering the farm as only a fruit farm, however, would severely limit its function and noteworthy status. Frank Dravo's diary also documents the farming of potatoes, asparagus, parsnips, yams, beans, peppers, oats, wheat, cabbage, and corn. In addition, a substantial number of cattle, hogs, and horses were noted. From the number and diversity of crops and livestock, then, one might conclude that nearly all of the acreage (save the northern wooded area) was being used.

In fact, from the descriptive language of the diary and the available lithographs, it appears that the neat and organized farm was truly a model for mid-19th century agricultural journals like Rural Affairs that catered to the upper class farmer who farmed for altruistic reasons as well as economic reasons. The connection between these journals and the proliferation of innovations to gentleman farms is clear. The journals were filled with suggestion columns and letters to the editor discussing farm production and layout improvements.

Daily accounts recall trips to the city to sell produce, weather reports, daily chores, Sunday services, and an attentive eye for detail when discussing farm conditions. From the evidence discovered, Frank Dravo painstakingly supervised and managed the farm for nearly 35 years. His journal entries recount field organization and layout, what jobs the "hands" were expected to do, and day to day operations--all centering around the cooperation of the weather. Other entries mention rose bushes that flanked "the avenue" (probably the entry drive) were to be "protected" and have ashes mounded on their roots; purchasing new doors and windows for either the main house or the local school (Field School formerly on site of JF226?), comments on the work habits of some of the hands, and accounts of the daily status of farm animals and crops.

Each of these examples denotes the role of the gentleman farmer as supervisor. The typical gentleman farmer (the model suggested by farm journals) would ornament the farm with exotic plantings and animals, control the financial aspects of the

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Diamond Fruit Farm, JF215
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farm improve the buildings, and leave the tedium of daily chores to slaves or hired hands.

SETTING

Focusing specifically on the subject property--the remaining 33 acres on the west side of Hurstbourne Lane--the Dravo property mirrors exactly the general description of the area offered earlier. Standing approximately 100 meters north of Six Mile Lane and the Southern Railway tracks, the main house rests where the narrow gravel drive curves to the east to meet the other outbuildings. The driveway is open, but is flanked to the east and west by a 3-rail natural wood farm fence. The fence defines what would typically be considered the domestic complex (photos 7,8,9).

The two large front parcels of land have been cleared for some time and remain as pasture for livestock. The western portion is currently being used and is the preferred of the two parcels due to its horizontality and quality grass (photo 10). The eastern portion contains a small "victory garden" set off by a split rail fence. The land slopes toward a creek bed which lies on the border of the Hurstbourne Lane extension (photos 11,12,13,14).

It appears from site visits that this parcel has not been used for some time, although with its gentle slope, good drainage and available water source it was likely the prime grazing side of the farm. According to aerial photographs (1950, 1963), these parcels were identified as field crops. However the most recent aerial view (1980) identified these areas as grazing pasture.

7. On the northern side of the main house, beyond the outbuildings, is upward sloping land (pasture, contributing site) with a small but dense woods in the northeast corner near Beargrass Creek. This part of the property is still actively used for the grazing of livestock. It is demarcated by fence lines,

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but considered a part of the "active" farm only in terms of property boundaries according to its tenants. However, it, too, is part of the nominated boundary increase because of its traditional use, natural state, and unchanged landscape (photo 15).

Frank Dravo's concern for the physical beauty of the farm to be seen leads one to believe that the ornamental horticulture and fruit trees were highlighted in the front of the farm (facing Six Mile Lane and the railroad tracks), while the more mundane agricultural activities were somewhat restricted towards the rear of the farm. While it would be too assumptive to think that the farm was arranged only according to beauty (Dravo was too astute a businessman to restrict yield for show), it does seem plausible that the aesthetics of the farm would have been a serious consideration.

8. The rather dramatic change from low to high ground here offers an explanation of its "isolated" nature. This is further illustrated by a contributing site--a dry-laid cut limestone fence about 30 meters northeast of the main house. Although a fairly short section, running about 15 meters east-west, the fence evokes memories of the Conrad and Dravo farming tenures (photos 16,17,18).

DOMESTIC COMPLEX

When considering the domestic complex, some latitude has been taken in order to be more inclusive of the surrounding buildings and landscape. As such, the traditional view of the domestic complex has been broadened to include the outbuildings and the immediate surrounding fields. As discussed in the Gentleman Farm Property Type registration requirements and description, the relation between domestic complex and acreage was tight because of the gentleman farmer's intent to showcase the entire farm. Somewhat similar to country estates--where the relation between main house and landscaped gardens is critical to the identification process--gentleman farms exhibited a close relationship between form and function or layout and production.

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The conscious arrangement of buildings, trees, and crops reflected the owner's fascination with an orderly and well-groomed layout. The farm was intended to produce and to appeal. Thus unlike other less mature, less financially sound farms, Dravo should not be merely seen as a collection of general farming operations; instead, it should be viewed as a single focus of production and organization.

The building complex lies directly in the center of the property. Rising from the flat land at the bend in the gravel drive, the main house stands amid a scattered collection of a dozen maple trees, two large holly trees and various taxus shrubs. These 75-100 year old trees, somewhat irregular in arrangement and shape, frame the house so that it can be seen from the road, but not easily intruded upon.

The gravel drive curves to the east to the side of the house, and loops its way past the slaves quarters, tool shed, guest house, and garage (photo 19). The driveway ends 20 meters off the northwest corner of the main house as it nears the stock barn. From this contrived central location, access to any of the farm's resources are readily accessible and equidistant.

Feature Inventory

1. The main house, the principal contributing building, is a late Federal style I-house (ca. 1835) with mid-19th century Italianate alterations. This description is reminiscent of the Gentleman Farm Property Type's discussion of the genesis of an upper class farm complex. The two story, five bay, single pile main block with two ell additions has a standing seam sheet metal roof, boxed gutters, gable ends, and two interior chimneys. The brick bonding pattern on the facade is 5/1 American common bond resting on a low, handcut limestone foundation (photo 20).

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Notable details include 6/6 double hung sash windows, a central crosscut gable, three-pane sidelights and ornamental cornice brackets and window hoods. First floor windows were lengthened and a tall four-panel door with curved mullions was added to the front entry. Each of these additions was probably the work of Frank Dravo during the 1860s when he improved the buildings and grounds to achieve the "country Italian villa" appearance (photo 21).

As was customary, and readily apparent in the Six Mile Lane corridor, the modernization of one's farm and homestead was a sign of success. Also, an additional element of competition existed in the area. Updating buildings spurred a "keeping up with the Jones" attitude that prevailed among the well-to-do farmers in the Jeffersontown area. No fewer than three other Federal homes in the area assumed Italianate detailing during the middle of the 19th century: Judge Kirby House, JF212; Westwood Farm, JF217; Allen House, JF220.

The central bay window on the second floor was changed to a smaller, rectangular 6/6 sash window with a semicircular window hood. A bit more exaggerated than the flanking windows on the second story, this alteration was likely done in the early 20th century. The other second story decorative hoods include an egg and dart motif across the top ridge and plaster maple leaves in the center--strongly reminiscent of the maple tree grove in the front yard (photo 22).

To complete the detailing of the front facade, a small gabled stoop with board and batten fascia hovers over the front door where a large front porch stood. Though no doubt a 20th century addition, a conscious effort to draw from the surrounding architectural elements was made. The board and batten features of the slaves quarters and tool shed, and the vertical sense of the stock barn can be seen in the projecting stoop (photo 22).

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In essence, then, the sharp symmetrical lines of the early 19th century and the rather business like austerity of Conrad's time was transformed into the graceful and curvilinear lines of a country genteel farm by Dravo later in the same century. This parallels the discussion of the significance of gentleman farm to the mid 19th century as paragons of agrarian principles evident in the property type document. The gentleman farm was an expression of progressive wealth, but with respect for the past.

So, while Frank Dravo's additions reflected a move to a more prosperous era and individual expression, the swing comes full circle with the implementation of simpler, more vertical lines as seen in the 20th century changes. An ancillary consideration is Fenwick's addition of the board and batten guest house with its very simple lines. Perhaps this is the pendulistic swing to highlight the simple farm life in contrast to the modern, often ostentatious suburban housing tracts.

Without knowing the builder's motives it is impossible to think for him; however, some of the architectural incentives appear to have been reversed. That is, whereas it may have been customary for outbuildings to be either distinguished from the main buildings (cultural and socioeconomic reasons), or customary for outbuildings to match the main building (architectural consistency), the 20th century inspired the notion of blending all of the accompanying architecture together to display a sense of continuity and democratization. Gentleman farms had not vanished and the display of wealth and prosperity were still in vogue, but perhaps the forms of expression had changed.

The east and west sides of the house are very plain, and it should be noted that there is a six-pointed star tie-rod running the width of the main block. The east side of the main block has only one 6/6 double hung sash window and the 5/1 brick bonding continues (photo 23). The west side, least likely to be seen, has two 6/6 sash windows (photo 24). This was probably an attempt to pick up the afternoon and evening sun since no trees block the western horizon.

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The rear of the house, specifically the two additions, contrasts sharply with the main block. Asymmetrical, inconsistent window and veneer treatments and modernizations have made this portion of the house puzzling. Where a root cellar (probably used to keep fruit and vegetables cool and crisp) once extended from the main block, the more recent ell addition subsumes it. The emphasis of functional aspects of the rear of the house lends credence to the assumption that the front was considered more important by the owner with respect to passersby.

The west side ell appears to have been the first addition--probably to provide a kitchen. The gable end extends from the main block and a fairly steep pitched roof if composed of gray standing seam sheet metal achieves a complementary addition to the main house (photo 25). The central corbeled chimney shows more care in construction than either of the two chimneys on the main block. This fact, coupled with the slightly rounded window arches belie that this addition was made by Dravo when he "Italianized" the house in the mid-19th century.

The other, shorter more eclectic addition that begins on the east side of the main block and extends to the older ell addition was probably a reconstruction from an earlier root cellar (see lithograph). This root cellar, used for storing the abundant harvests, was widened and transformed into a kitchen eating area probably in the early to mid-20th century. No real concern seems to have been given to detail or sympathetic architectural treatment, which is consistent with the earlier rendered hypothesis (photo 23).

Thus, just as the farm graduated from Conrad to Dravo in a stylistic manner, it seems to also have graduated from form back to function with the Dravo descendants. It is interesting to note, then, the Fenwick's decision to recreate a guest house with a conscious effort towards replicating the principal outbuilding architectural style. Dr. Fenwick (a very successful veterinarian) has chosen to continue the theme of gentleman farming--made possible by his other sources of income. He has tenants who work the farm, but Fenwick does attend to the needs of the livestock, so to call it absentee farming would be inappropriate.

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The property's outbuildings respectfully blend with the farm's overall theme of form and function, which is consistent with the property type requirements. While very simple in their general design, each features individual characteristics and details that manifest design purpose.

2. The large, transverse crib barn, standing 75 meters northwest of the main house, is a contributing building. The barn was built in the early 20th century (ca. 1920) and it serves as stockbarn and hay storage. The vertical boards on each side are similar to the vertical board and batten slaves quarters, tool shed, and guest house. A small extended gable overhang is centered above the main barn entrance. The barn is situated on level to sloping land from south to north. Likely built during the transitional stage of the farm from fruit to stock, it represents a more modern, though equally significant, stage of development in the continually evolving gentleman farm (photos 26,27,28).

3. The guest house lies 30 meters off the eastern side of the main house, and it represents a modern addition to the past. A non-contributing building, this one story, three bay, board and batten ranch house is the result of the Fenwick's interpretation of the farm's history (photo 29). It is reminiscent of the guest accommodations provided by the Dravo's to their "summer boarders," as described in Frank Dravo's diary, 1890-1893. While there is no evidence that an outbuilding served as a guest quarters during Dravo's years, it is the concept is merely modernized with the Fenwick's tasteful addition. The practice of a farmer entertaining guests was not uncommon, and as Dravo was so proximate to the railroad and a major east-west route anyone passing by such a showplace would not hesitate to stop and inquire.

Similar successful attempts at injecting contemporary architecture to mirror an historic central theme are: the Nature Center board and batten building at Blackacre (JF298) and the tiny cottage at the McClure House (JF492). Each of these modern buildings was built with style, use, and placement in mind.

4. The slaves' quarters, a contributing building, dates to the early to mid-19th century. A one story, frame board and batten structure with gable ends, this building probably housed

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the slaves and "hands" identified in Conrad's will and Frank Dravo's diary. Rough cut limestone piers provide an elevated foundation; the roof is standing seam sheet metal. The four bay, single pile building has two door entries at opposite ends of the front facade. Two slightly arched 6/6 double hung sash windows are more centrally placed. There are small windows in the gables of each end (photos 30,31).

5. A detached, but related contributing building is the small board-and-batten too shed lying about 3 meters north of the slaves quarters. With a hipped, corrugated metal roof, no windows and one central door, this purely functional building retains a similarity in scale and materials to the slaves quarters (photo 30).

The arches over the front windows on this building are similar to the gentle rounded arches that exist on the older ell addition to the main house. Apparently an attempt to create resembling, yet distinct housing was the result. Thus the timing of the ell addition and the "new" slaves quarters indicate that Frank Dravo's intent was to create a tasteful complex that recognized status and roles, but also scale, materials, and aesthetics. The Theodore Brown House "Woodhaven" (JF310) is a similar representative example of a gentleman farm that created a planned architectural complex. Others include the James Brown House "Wildwood Farm" (JF311), and the James Funk House "Stony Brook" (JF223).

6. Finally, located about 20 meters north of the main house is a modern concrete block garage constructed on the stone foundation of a much earlier structure. Below grade and somewhat hidden by overgrowth is a rare stone and brick underground springhouse which forms the northeast corner of the garage (photos 32,33). Comparable in style and construction is an underground springhouse on the Dr. William Bryan, Sr. property (JF214), just across Six Mile Lane.

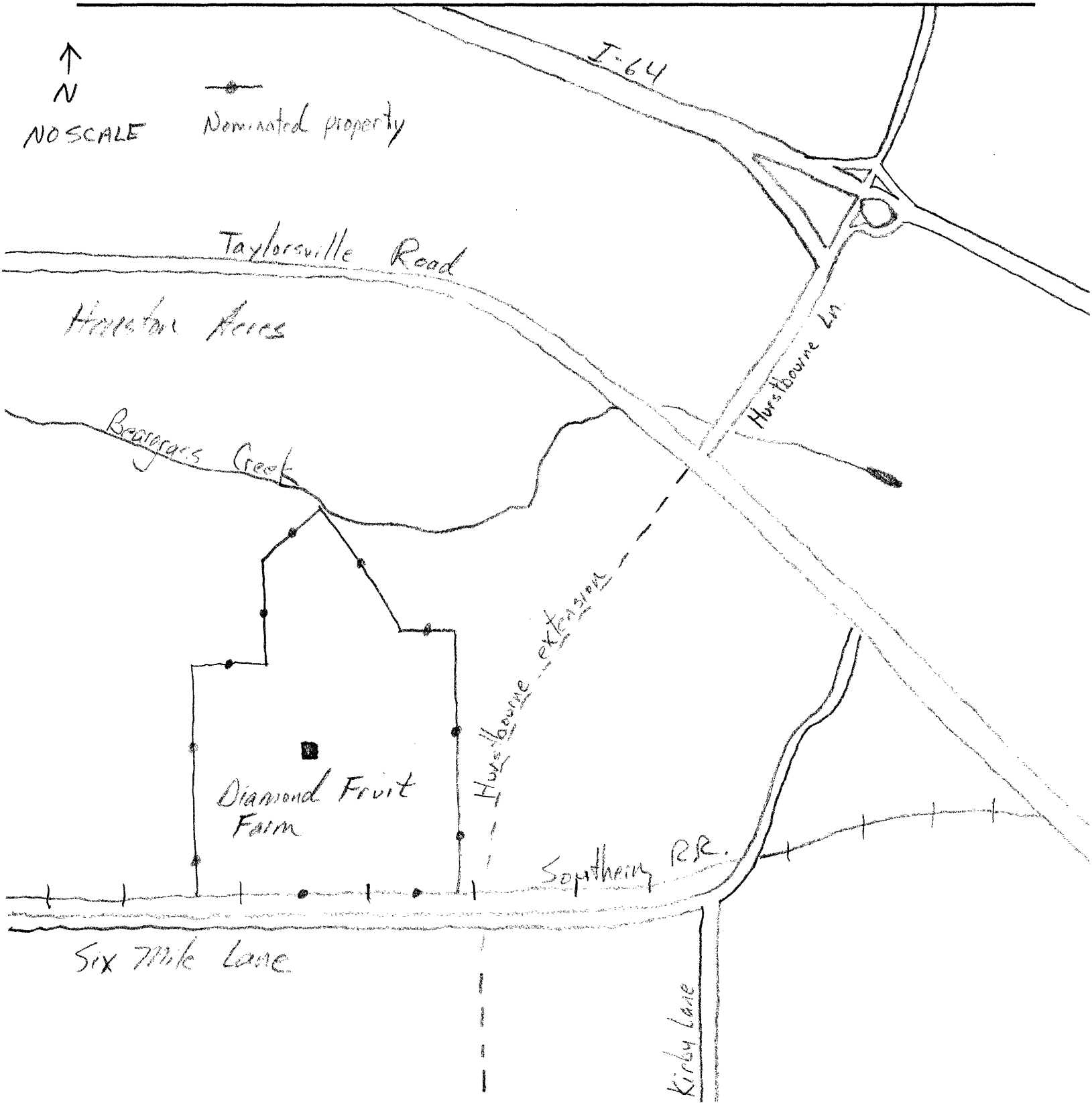
The argument for considering this structure as contributing is that it is not only in its original location with an intact foundation, but also that it provided the base for a currently used structure. This typifies the connection between past and present, and serves to remind the general public of the qualities of recycling the old.

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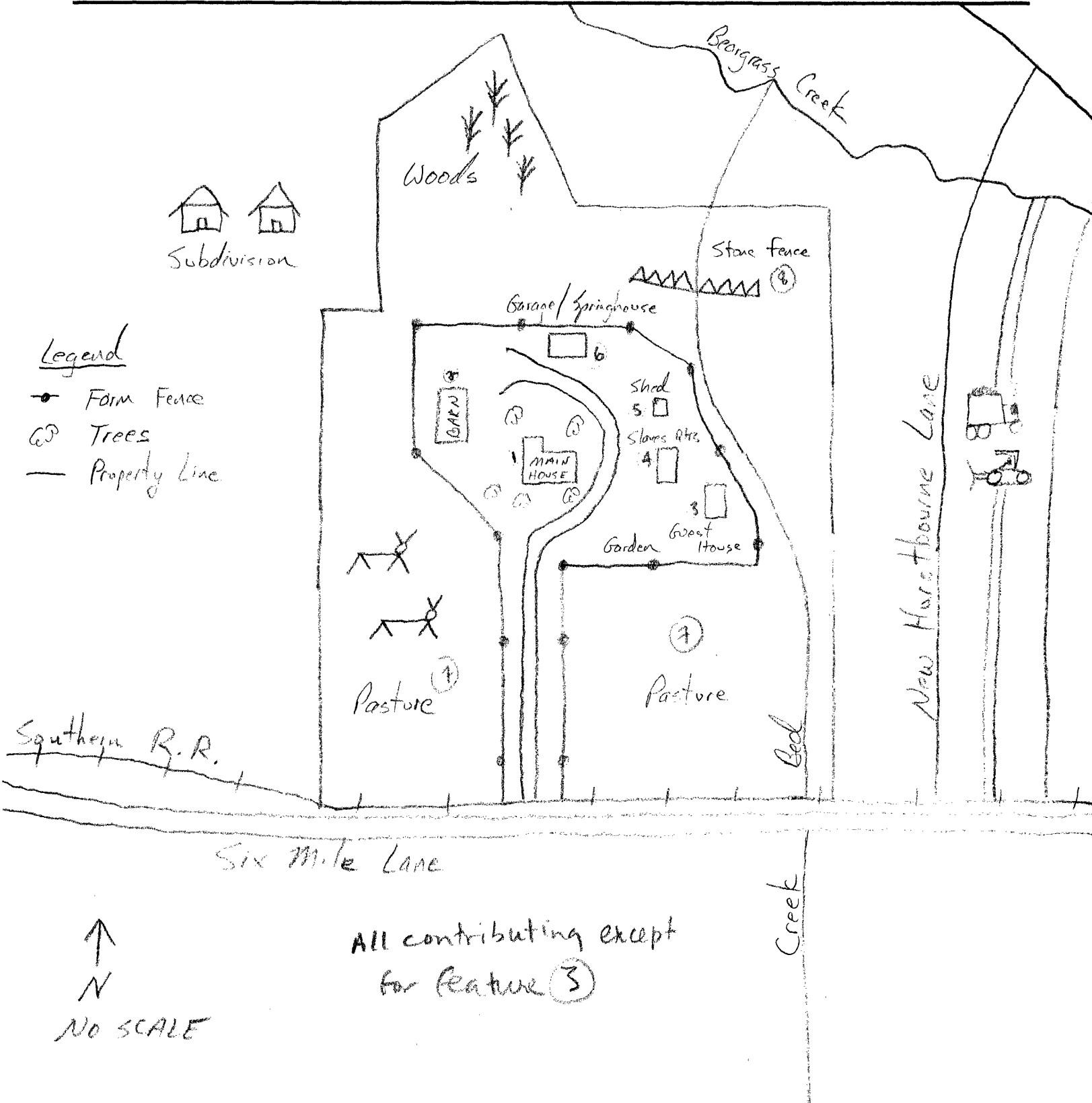


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Diamond Fruit Farm, JF 215
Jefferson County, Kentucky



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Diamond Fruit Farm, JF215
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Significance

The Diamond Fruit Farm (hereinafter referred to as Dravo), including the previously listed National Register property-- Dravo House, is significant at the local level under Criterion A as an active and well-preserved example of a Gentleman Farm Property Type. As part of the "Agriculture in Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky 1800-1930" context, Dravo's built, tilled and natural landscape has retained the original integrity associated with the property since Valentine Conrad first settled the area in 1837.

Dravo survives as an operative farm amid the intense and rapid suburbanization of the new Hurstbourne Lane corridor. Literally standing in the path of the 3.9 mile, \$10 million extension of this major north-south artery, Dravo departs from the now common scenery of graded land, backfill, and exposed limestone. The original tract of land is essentially bisected by the construction of the 4-lane road, a rare yet dramatic change in the history of the property (see section 7.1).

The property's cultivated use spans more than 150 years. During its period of significance, three family owners (who were and are prominent citizens within the Louisville area) chose to till the soil as both vocation and avocation. As such, Dravo's form and function have consistently reflected the character of its owners and its surroundings. And, Dravo is just one example, though arguably the best example, of a genteel farm operation in the eastern portion of Jefferson County. Therefore, the discussion of Dravo draws upon the family histories and the history of Jeffersontown to support the context of this property as a gentleman farm.

Shortly after the current owner, Paul Fenwick, took possession of the farm in 1986, Jefferson County Fiscal Court condemned roughly half of the property for the Hurstbourne Lane extension, and by the power of eminent domain forced a sale of the property. This left Fenwick with the nuclear 33 acres of original property. In consideration of the owners' precedent of carefully guiding the farm's course, it seems credible to think that the central portion of the farm was the most important and most representative part of the farm. Throughout most of the farm's existence (1814-present), then, Dravo retained some of its original size, but more importantly retained most of its integrity.

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A caveat that should be made at this time regarding the gentleman farm property type as it pertains to Dravo. Gentleman farming was a process of both individual refinement and succeeding land refinement. That is to say, individuals who were to become gentleman farmers first had to satisfy certain prerequisites: 1) that person would have been independently wealthy (Conrad crockery, Dravo coal, Fenwick veterinarian; 2) that person would have to have been a prominent community leader (Conrad local government service, Dravo farm organization, Fenwick local civic organizations); 3) that person would have to have developed an interest and a working knowledge of farming--each person becoming a student of the science of farming; and 4) each person would have to have made conscious and conspicuous improvements to the farm.

Other similar properties (not yet mentioned) with qualities of the gentleman farm include: John E. Bryan farm "Beech Lawn" (JF216), Colonel George Hancock "Glenmary" (JF144), Croghan-Blankenbaker House (JF458), A. G. Herr "Magnolia Stock Farm" (JF490), Hite-Chenoweth House (JF209), Abner Field House (JF226), Gaar-Fenton House (JF210), and the Abraham L. Williams House (JF513). These eastern Jefferson County farms, when considered in conjunction with the Six Mile Lane farms and the Jeffersontown area farms described in section 7, combine to form the definitive set of similar property type examples. Each of the aforementioned properties has been listed or has been evaluated to possess National Register quality in field surveys.

Historical Significance

As early as 1811, when Nicholas Buckner purchased the 132 acre claim of Nicolas Merriwether and James Sullivan, the farm would maintain a consistency in size, use, productivity, and ownership. Just three years after Buckner held the property he sold it to Levi Carrico of Shelby County for \$460.90. Two years after that in 1814, Levi Carrico sold the same property to Valentine Conrad. Conrad held the property, perhaps initially practicing subsistence farming and making minor improvements to the land, while he continued to work in nearby Jeffersontown. In Conrad's 1850 will, he bequeathed the property to his eldest son William Conrad.

Eight years later, George Seabolt purchased from Conrad a 119 acre tract for his newly married daughter--Margaret Seabolt Dravo and her husband Frank S. Dravo. This marriage was symbolic

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in several ways. In one sense it was the merging of two prominent, but divergent families. George Seabolt, the typical gentleman Virginian farmer married his daughter to Frank Dravo--a northern industrialist. Together, Seabolt's and Dravo's respective knowledge of fruit growing and business management, provided a catalyst for the farm's success. (The Seebolt House, JF128, had a brick building for drying fruit--an indication that Seebolt was aware of the fruit growing processes.)

In another, more conspicuous sense, it was an effort on Seebolt's part to showcase his progeny. The functional and architectural connections between Margaret Seebolt's sister's property Westwood Farm (JF217) and Dravo are unmistakable. Displaying the progression from subsistence farming and Federal construction to gentleman farming and Italianate construction was Seebolt's stage for success. And, as one can see in the "modernizations" of the Judge Kirby House (JF212) and the Allen House (JF217), a similar "fever" of conspicuous consumption infected the entire area.

In the case of Frank Dravo--his experience and interest in farming may be connected to his marriage to Margaret Seabolt who was raised on her father's prominent Springbank Farm (JF128, burned, but still standing in ruin) in central Jefferson County. Similarly, Fenwick's matriculation to agriculture (stock farming) likely came through his veterinarian background. Certainly, his improvements to the land and buildings substantiate the aforementioned refinement process.

Perhaps it was the drawing power of the land that first attracted these men to farming. Arguments made that this "drawing power" was a fictional or romanticized image must surely agree that the powerful and pervasive agricultural journals of the mid-19th century spawned many of these images and thereby made fiction a reality to many of their readers. Valentine Conrad to the property from his very successful pottery works in Jeffersontown. In the same vein as the Roman warrior Cincinnatus and American president Thomas Jefferson, Conrad was a farmer who served in the government, but who left the public eye to take up farming.

Conrad made his fortune as a crockeryman in Jeffersontown, but used his wealth to establish a prominent farm on Six Mile Lane. Conrad is credited with the initial recognition and use of the farm as such, but each of the subsequent owners further refined the use. Even today, the current owners see

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Dravo as a "retirement" country villa where the veterinarian can practice his vocation and avocation.

The City of Jeffersontown was chartered in 1797. Located between the fertile watersheds of Floyds Fork which drains to the south and east and Beargrass Creek which drains to the north and west, this was an original settlement area in Jefferson County's early history. Among the notable citizens of early Jeffersontown and Jefferson County was Valentine Conrad.

One of the many German immigrants who came to this part of Kentucky and prospered as farmers and merchants, Conrad emerged as a church and civic leader. He was an early member of the German Lutheran Church in the early 1800s. In addition to his church duties, Conrad was appointed a trustee of the City of Jeffersontown in 1808, 1815, and 1816. In 1817 served as Treasurer for Jeffersontown. His son William was also named a trustee in 1820 and 1822.

Prominent as he was for his public service, it was the Conrad Crockery business that distinguished the family name. From 1800-1837 Conrad and son made pottery in downtown Jeffersontown. But unlike many merchants and businessmen who left farms and moved to the city to meet the growing need for service industries, Conrad returned to the farm **after** making his fortune in the city. Local histories cite that several local shopkeepers and townsmen "never relinquished their farms," and maintained their farms in good order. This trend was exemplified in the Six Mile Lane area, especially by the Diamond Fruit Farm.

Conrad farmed the land until 1850 when he died. His will and inventory and settlement records indicate that already a successful farm was well underway. Items of note include several lots of preserve jars, 36 hogs, 12 sheep, 6 cows, 4 horses, 20 acres of corn, hemp, wheat, oats and seven slaves. Valentine willed the farm to William who held it for eight years before selling to George Seabolt in 1858. Seabolt purchased the farm for his daughter Margaret and Frank Dravo. The previous year Seabolt purchased Samuel Conrad's farm (Westwood Farm, JF217) for another daughter Nancy and her husband Benjamin S. Alderson.

Frank Dravo (pronounced Drä'vō in Louisville and Drä vō' in Pittsburgh) was born in 1829 in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. Ironically, the development company responsible for most of

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the new construction along the Hurstbourne Lane corridor is the Hunnington Group. Dravo was the fourth of ten children; his family was of French descent.

He graduated from Alleghany College and immediately thereafter became associated with his father and brothers in the Dravo & Sons family coal business in Pittsburgh. In the Pittsburgh area today there is a small community located southeast of the city named Dravosburg. Situated on the banks of the Monongahela River, it is still the home of the Dravo Coal Company and ship works. Also, there is an historic Dravo House in Pittsburgh, near Diamond Alley. The connection between coal-carbon-diamonds and the Dravo family is too strong to ignore--perhaps accounting for the genesis of the name, Diamond Fruit Farm.

In 1856 Dravo moved to Louisville, where he had charge of a branch of his family's coal business and boatworks of J.T. and F.S. Dravo. He continued this work until 1860 until he sold his interest in the business and devoted himself exclusively to farming. Dravo is credited with having the largest fruit farm in Jefferson County, consisting of thousands of apple, peach, pear, and other kinds of trees. His manor grounds were arranged with a "view to utility and beauty, and his home is one of the most attractive and handsomely arranged in the county or State," from History of the Ohio Falls Cities and Their Counties.

By his wife Margaret he had two children, A.B. and George M. Dravo. Also, Dravo was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. After six months of "organic heart disease," Frank Dravo died in the winter of 1893. He is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery. The farm was left to his wife and children, and his will and inventory and settlement records reveal that he left behind a hugely successful operation.

Some of the more notable items listed include: 3 horses, mules, and cows, 10 pigs, 20 barrels of Irish potatoes, a lot of corn, and the following "mechanized equipment--plows, harrows, cultivators, wagons, corn and potato planters and a McCormick mower. Some of these items offer insights as to the scope and magnitude of Dravo's operation. Dravo was instrumental in the organization of the Jefferson County Fruit Growers Association in 1880. Louisville was a leading producer and market for fruit in the United States, and this organization helped propagate this success as well as disseminate the latest technical and

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fertilization information.

It is appropriate that this organization was established thanks to the efforts of several of area fruit farmers that appear on the 1879 Beers and Lanagan Atlas of Jefferson County: N. Cartwright Farm "Fruitland" (demolished), the B.F. Marse Fruit and Stock Farm "Pleasant Hill" (demolished), and the P.E. Bates Fruit Farm (demolished). George Hi(c)kes of Two Mile Town is credited with spearheading the fruit growers movement in Jefferson County. Hikes visited southwestern Pennsylvania to learn of their expertise in the farming of fruit and trees and brought back his newfound knowledge to Louisville. Perhaps Frank Dravo brought some of this expertise to Louisville as well.

Dravo's individual significance largely lies in its resilient quality of maintaining a tradition of prominent families farming the land by choice. Frank Dravo's explicit diary entries (1890-1893) detail a farming operation that was not only interested in profit, but the beauty of the farm as well. Perhaps the most telling passages concern the interest of Dravo in "staying at home and keeping away from courthouses," an indication of the independent character of the farmer and the interest in tending to business at home on the farm. Another passage corroborates the contention that building improvements were integral to the establishment of a gentleman farm. Dravo wrote about the decision to paint the main house a blush color instead of white in order to avoid a "white elephant" look. Thus a key to determining the gentleman farm's personality is to consider the impact of its most influential owner and how that owner manifested his personality in the farm.

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Diamond Fruit Farm
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Section number 10 Page 2

Diamond Fruit Farm, JF215
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the 33 acres of extant buildings, structures, and sites that are historically and culturally related to the Diamond Fruit Farm during its tenure as a gentleman farm. Previously surveyed in 1979 and part of the 1983 Multiple Resource Area (subsumed by the 1988 Multiple Property Listing), the Diamond Fruit Farm nomination originally included only the main building.

The Diamond Fruit Farm property is polygonally shaped (see USGS map), and each side of the property provides a distinctive border between the nominated property and the surrounding developed area. Also, each side of the property contrasts sharply with the developed area, therefore delineating a clear distinction between the nominated district retaining historic integrity and the property outside of this district.

The southern edge of the property is confined by Six Mile Lane and the Southern Railway tracks. The northern and western boundaries are determined by new subdivisions. Most recently and most radically, that parcel of the original farm that lies east of the new Hurstbourne Lane right of way has been omitted since it has been physically severed from the central core of the farm and therefore lacks integrity when considered with the remaining property.

The justification for determining each boundary rests on the integrity of the property during its course of development. It is true that the farm has undergone a series of minor changes, but what remains today reflects the commitment and consistency of the owners to the identifiable qualities of the domestic and farming complexes. To consider anything less than the full extent of the 33 acres would effectively deny recognition and protection to the designed agricultural aspects of the present farm.

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The entire property (minus the aforementioned section) is nominated because of the following reasons: (1) historically, the remaining property is the major portion of the original tract of land first settled by Valentine Conrad in the mid 1830s, (2) the setting of the farm is not limited to only the main house; the characteristics of the farm that give it significance as a National Register property (domestic complex, outbuildings, pasture, consciously placed plantings) extend to the perimeters of the farm property, and (3) the historic significance of the entire property has been considered in this boundary expansion. Thus, in order to effect a more comprehensive study of the farm and to more completely address the original National Register nomination of July, 1983 which is entitled "Diamond Fruit Farm," but only considers the main building and a small arbitrary space surrounding the main house, the remaining property is included.

The Diamond Fruit Farm includes, but is not limited to a Federal style I-house with Italianate detailing. Tantamount in importance, however, is the fertile surrounding acreage where the farm received its reputation. By amending the boundaries to include the remaining acreage, the 1983 nomination will be corrected in that the nomination for the "Diamond Fruit Farm" will actually be the farm and not just the Dravo House.

To the north is the watershed of the South Fork of Beargrass Creek and the Houston Acres subdivision. To the west is active pasture providing a buffer to suburban development. To the south lie the Southern Railway line and Six Mile Lane. These two landmarks provide a clear corridor for the other 19th century farms that exist in the area. Finally, to the east lies the Hurstbourne Lane extension.

Excluding the Hurstbourne Lane edge, each of the other borders has remained essentially intact since 1894. Two small $3\frac{1}{2}$ parcels were added in 1936 to complete the 63.276 acre size that was whittled into 33 acres by the Hurstbourne Lane extension. And, despite the fact that the farm is essentially half of its original size, the central core has remained undisturbed. A more complete and corroborating discussion of the deed history appears in section #8.

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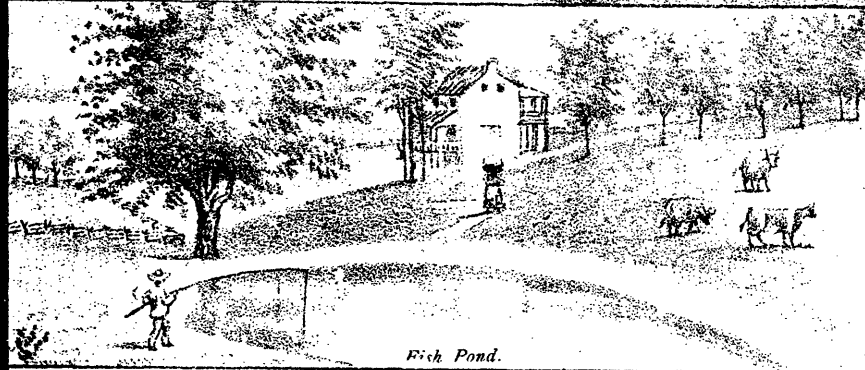
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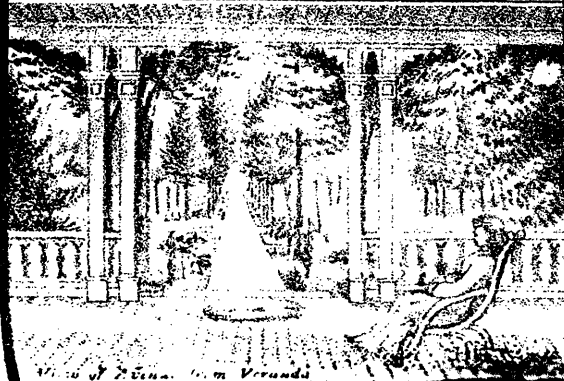
Considering the integrity and boundary justification for the eastern edge of the nominated property a less traditional argument, though equally compelling, is the recognition of this section of property adjacent to the Hurstbourne Lane extension. On its face value, the property is part of the original farm and meets the registration requirements set for this property as a gentleman farm property type. But of equal consideration should be the educational qualities that this view affords passing motorists. By designating the land as National Register property and affording it added protection, the public may have a deeper appreciation for both the property and its future.



View of Farm



Rich Pond.



View of Veranda from Veranda



Front View of Residence.



Diamond Fruit Farm
Frank S. Dravo

History of the Ohio Falls
Counties

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Diamond Fruit Farm
Jefferson County, Kentucky

For the following photographs, the information listed below is accurate for each photo. Information peculiar to any one photograph will be detailed on the back of each photo.

Diamond Fruit Farm
8101 Six Mile Lane
Jeffersontown Vicinity
Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky 40220

Photographer:	Daniel G. Carey
Repository:	Jefferson County Office of Historic Preservation & Archives
Date of photos:	October, 1989

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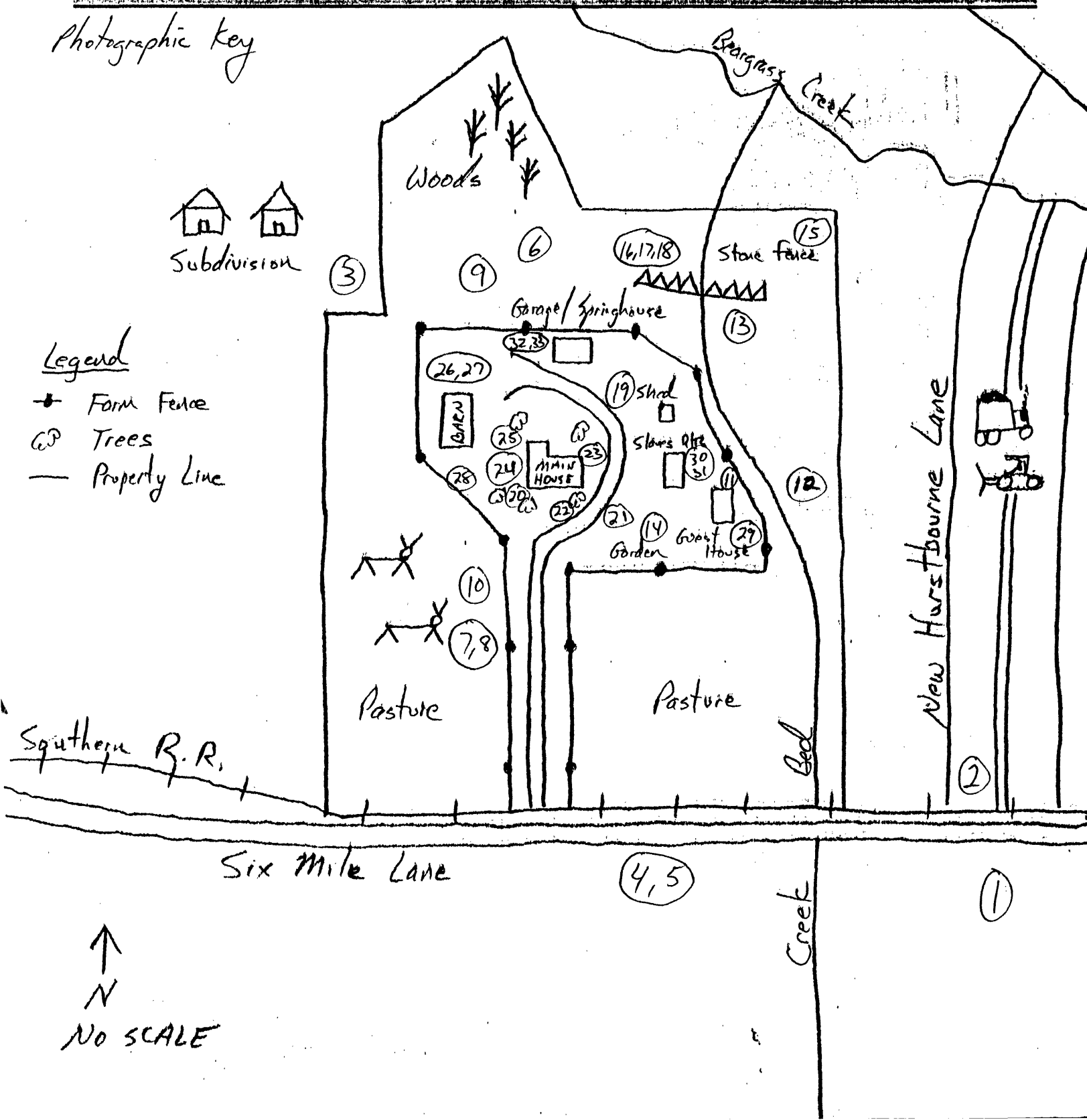
Diamond Fruit Farm
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Photographic key



Legend

- ✱ Farm Fence
- GP Trees
- Property Line



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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000783

Date Listed: 5/30/90

Diamond Fruit Farm (Boundary Increase)
Property NameJefferson
CountyKY
StateJefferson County MRA
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus
for Signature of the Keeper

5/30/90
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Two issues need to be clarified. When the farm was originally listed in the National Register it included two contributing buildings (rather than one as shown in Section 3 of this boundary increase). Also, the property is nominated under the Areas of Significance of Agriculture and Architecture, but only Criterion C is checked. Criterion A should be added to reflect the agricultural significance of the property. Marty Perry with the KY SHPO agrees to these changes. The form is now officially amended to reflect the correct count and to add Criterion A.

=====

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)